



# ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



## Parra Notes

May 12, 2006

Hello Friends:

### WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

Only hours ago, **Governor Schwarzenegger** unveiled his **\$131.1 billion May Revise budget**. Traditionally, the Central Valley has been left on the outside looking in when it comes to getting our fair share in state funding to serve the needs of our residents, but I am encouraged by **today's May Revise**.

### Some of the Central Valley highlights in the Governor's May Revise include:

- A one-time payment of \$5 million to implement a strategic plan for the **California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**;
- The distribution of \$35 million to the **State Department of Water Resources** for the creation of a **Central Valley flood management plan**;
- An allocation of \$20 million of general fund monies, to be distributed regionally, amongst the **Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area**; and
- Additional funding for **UC Merced** and **CSU Bakersfield** to conduct facility improvement projects.

This is a positive start for the **Central Valley**, but it is only the next step in the budget process, and the fight to retain this proposed funding starts now. As a member of the **Budget Committee**, I plan to do all that I can to make sure the **Valley** is not left behind.

I commend the **Governor** for taking a proactive approach in addressing the **Valley's** needs, and I look forward to working with him throughout the remaining steps of this year's budget process to ensure the **Valley** receives its fair share.

### NOW, TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

To start out the week I met with members of the **California School Board Association (CSBA)**. We discussed some of the education challenges facing schools and students in **30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**.

For more information on the **California School Board Association** please visit their web site at [www.csba.org](http://www.csba.org).

My meeting with **Mike Jimenez** of the **California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA)** provided me the opportunity to discuss the issues facing our brave men and women in uniform. I was also able to brief **Mr. Jimenez** on the status of my **CCPOA** supported legislation.

If you would like additional details on the **California Correctional Peace Officers Association** they are obtainable on their web site <http://www.ccpoa.org/>.

I had the chance to meet with cable and telecommunications operators and programmers from the **California Cable and Telecommunications Association (CCTA)**. We discussed the future of the industry and the potential effects of **AB 2987** on the Central Valley. In case you were wondering, **AB 2987** is the cause of all the Comcast and ATT ads you have been seeing lately.

To find out more about the **CCTA**, please access their web site <http://www.calcable.org/>.

This week, I also sat on a hearing of the **Budget Subcommittee No. 4**, during which my colleagues and I dealt with issues relating to the **Labor and Workforce Agency**, the **Department of Housing and Community**, and the **Department of Veteran Affairs**

**Budget Subcommittee Number 4** deals with issues relating to state administration and governance.

To access the Committee's agendas or archives, please visit the **Assembly's** web site [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov) and click on "**Committee Directory**," after which follow the link to "**Committee on the Budget**."

The **California Women for Agriculture**, from the **Central District**, stopped by my **Capitol** office for a visit. We had an informed discussion on numerous topics, including genetically engineered crops and the need for farm worker housing throughout the valley.

Their very enlightening web site is <http://www.cawomen4ag.com/>.

Later in the week, I spoke at the **Great Valley Center Legislative Breakfast**, where I gave the membership an update on the recently passed infrastructure bonds. This is a great group of people who are so uniquely motivated in their passionate fight for all things Valley. I commend them on their efforts to raise Sacramento's level of awareness of the Central Valley.

To find out more about this great organization, please check out their web site <http://www.greatvalley.org/>

Towards the end of the week I hosted a mobile district office at the **Hanford Street Fair**. I had the opportunity to converse with members of the district. I took photos with **Joni Davis** of the **American Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments (ABATE)**, whilst discussing issues pertaining to motorcyclists across the state. I also ran into **Mike Mendoza**, a local principal, with whom I discussed a new foundation that gives \$300 scholarships -- I pledged to sponsor a student for this great cause. I also spoke with and will return next week to grant an interview with 6<sup>th</sup> grader and future reporter **Leo Gonzalez**. His eagerness excites me about the future of our country.

For more information about **ABATE** please take a look at their web site <http://www.abate.org/>.

To close out the week, I joined **Secretary of State Bruce McPherson** as he encouraged students to register to vote and participate in the democratic process during a visit to **Arvin High School**.

Many of these students will soon be eligible to vote and it is so important for them to be actively engaged in our democratic process. The enthusiasm these **Arvin High students** showed today really encourages me and it shows that the efforts of **Secretary McPherson** are paying off.

**Secretary McPherson** also presented a resolution to the "**We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution**" team for winning this year's **20th Congressional District competition**. The competition consists of mock congressional hearings where students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to debate positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

### **COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT**

**Becca's Closet** was created as a legacy to **Becca Kirtman** and the project she started at her high school in Florida. **Becca** was killed in a car accident a few years ago, but her project lives on. There is now an official chapter of **Becca's Closet** on the **Hanford High School Campus**. **Becca's Closet** provides formal attire to high school girls who otherwise would not be able to attend their prom/formal because they cannot purchase a dress.

**Becca's Closet** is run by students in the **Hanford High School Partnership Academy** and dresses can be tried

on, and given out, by appointment. Please come by **Room 554 (Mrs. Smith's room)** before school, at snack, or at lunch if you would like to find out about getting a dress for the next formal dance.

Anyone in the community, or any student, who would like to donate a gently used formal can help out, too. **Please call Carol Smith at 559-583-5902, ext. 8414**, or send an e-mail to [csmith@hjuhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:csmith@hjuhsd.k12.ca.us) for more information. They can arrange for pick-up or drop-off of your donations. I encourage everybody to help out with this great cause, because we can make a difference in a lot of girls' lives.

---

### **COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT**

The Capitol Network has recommended our district to receive scholarships for two young women to participate in **Women in Politics 2006**. The program is organized by the **California Center**, a non-profit, non-partisan project that strives to engage students in public policy and state politics. Since 1982, more than 15,000 youth from all parts of the state have participated in Capitol Focus programs. This summer, forty young women representing communities from throughout the state will congregate in Sacramento to explore public policy, political issues, and political processes, both in general, and juxtaposed with issues of gender. Our sponsors support this scholarship program because they recognize the urgent need to increase civic participation and gender equality.

**Two high school aged young women** (14-18 years old) from our district will have the opportunity to attend the upcoming **Women in Politics Program, June 20-23, 2006** in Sacramento. The program fee, \$500 per person, covered by Capitol Network, includes all dinners and breakfasts, lodging, transportation to Sacramento, admission to all tours and activities, and program materials.

The group will move about the capitol area for a series of lively interactive sessions with professionals representing the legislative and executive branches, lobbying organizations, and the media. Participants will examine contrasting perspectives on statewide issues, conduct mock legislative hearings and then cast their own votes. At the end of four days, participants are encouraged to return home to make reports and lead discussions benefiting many other youth and constituents.

**Capitol Focus** and the **Summer Institute on Women in Politics** are conducted under the auspices of the **California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development**. The **California Center** is a recognized non-partisan leader in efforts to encourage and support youth engagement in a variety of efforts to improve schools and communities. Our work is supported by a host of respected associations and corporations; numerous schools, cities, counties and state agencies; and major philanthropic foundations including the **James Irvine Foundation**, the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**, and the **California Wellness Foundation**.

For more information, or to apply to **Women in Politics**, please contact:

James Muldavin, Executive Director  
California Center for Civic Participation and Youth Development  
1220 H Street, #102; Sacramento, California 95814  
916 443-2229 (Voice); 916 443-2297 (Fax);  
[www.californiacenter.org](http://www.californiacenter.org); [muldavin@californiacenter.org](mailto:muldavin@californiacenter.org)

**\*\*\*Please note that students will be selected no later than May 29, 2006, so please have your applications in before that day.**

---

### **INTERESTING LINK**

I would like to direct everyone to a very interesting and educational web site, [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov). In accessing this web site, which is even used by many seasoned legislative veterans in Sacramento, people can learn more about the legislative process and the kinds of bills being carried by members of the legislature. People can also find the contact information for a given member....or if you do not know who your representatives are, you can find out that information, too.

I hope you check this site out, because it can serve as a tremendous resource, especially for students working on their social studies and civics homework and projects!!!!

---

### **NEED HOMEWORK HELP?**

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

**Live Homework Help** is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

---

### **MEETING REQUESTS**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov).

---

### **INTERNS WANTED**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov).

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at [Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov).

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov).

---

### **ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

**1780:** Charleston, South Carolina fell to British forces.

**1831:** Edward Smith became the first indicted bank robber in the [U.S.](#)

**1847:** William Clayton invented the odometer.

**1940:** The Nazi conquest of France began with the German army crossing Muese River.

**1942:** The Soviet Army launched its first major offensive of World War II and took Kharkov in the eastern Ukraine from the German army.

**1943:** The Axis forces in North Africa surrendered during World War II.

**1999:** Russian President Boris Yeltsin dismissed Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and named Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin as his successor.

#### **Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

#### **Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

#### **Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)  
If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)

